National Industries for the Blind



1977 Annual Report

What is NIB?

The Wagner-O'Day Act, enacted by Congress in 1938, directs agencies of the Federal Government to purchase, under certain conditions, products from workshops (industries) for the blind. A Presidentially-appointed Committee for Purchase from the Blind and Other Severely Handicapped is responsible for implementing the provisions of the Act.

National Industries for the Blind (NIB), a nonprofit corporation, was designated by the Committee to allocate, among qualified industries for the blind, purchase orders of the Federal Government for approved goods and services.

NIB is also responsible for monitoring and inspecting the activities of the associated industries for the blind in 37 states to insure compliance with the Wagner-O'Day Act and appropriate regulations. NIB carries out its responsibilities and assists the 91 associated industries in a number of ways:

- It researches new products and supervises the industries to insure contract compliance in production on all new items added to the Government Procurement List.
- NIB devises quality assurance programs and maintains a component and product testing laboratory.
- It maintains engineering services to increase plant efficiency, broadens and upgrades production opportunities for the blind and provides constant cost surveillance.
- NIB assists the industries in procurement of materials used in production.
- The Division of Rehabilitation Services of NIB works closely with all industries for the blind in establishing evaluation and training programs to make possible the greater employment of the multihandicapped blind.
- NIB seeks job contracting opportunities in private industry to provide employment for blind people.
- For management and technical personnel, NIB, in conjunction with its demonstration workshop, conducts numerous training programs.

Message from the Chairman and President

A recent Gallup poll shows that of all physical disabilities, loss of sight is the most feared. Yet, as Helen Keller once said, "The curse of the blind is not blindness, but idleness." It is to eliminate this idleness that National Industries for the Blind (NIB) has as its goal the development of industrial employment opportunities for blind people throughout the United States.

NIB is composed of 91 associated industries for the blind, many of which are integral parts of agencies serving more than 43,000 blind and visually handicapped people each year. Of those served, over 5,300 are provided regular employment and this past year they produced a variety of products valued at \$109 million. Of this amount \$59 million were sales to the Federal Government, an increase of \$13 million or 29% over last year. Sales to other markets were \$50 million, reflecting an increase of 13% over last year.

Although sales are important, employment of the blind is, of course, paramount. The number employed increased 11% this year, and wages and fringe benefits paid to the blind increased by 23% to a record high of \$18.2 million.

The NIB Board has approved new programs which will be devoted to the removal of some of the disincentives to work that have developed through legislation and regulation over recent years. We are committed to better informing our various publics concerning the associated industries for the blind, their programs and what they are accomplishing. To achieve these objectives, we have



Thor W. Kolle, Jr.



Abram Claude, Jr.

established a public information department in our New Jersey office and a legislative affairs office in Washington. The staffs of these two offices will concentrate initially on the following:

- NIB will work with others to change some provisions of Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance. Legislation portions of these programs now discourage blind people from seeking employment by penalizing them financially if they do.
- We want to help the individual associated industries establish local public relations or information programs.
- We will work diligently to explain our programs to business executives for we feel strongly that well informed, cooperative private industries can and will do much to assist us.
- Another thrust of our public information effort will be toward members of Congress who represent states in which NIB agencies are located. They, too, should know of our objectives and progress toward helping blind people achieve economic and social independence.
- Without jeopardizing individual rights, we will try to insure that no restrictions interfering with training and employment of the multihandicapped blind are placed on our associated industries.

In other areas, during this past year, we expanded our workshop personnel training programs and established two pilot projects with private industry. These are reviewed along with other aspects of NIB's programs on the following pages.

The W. Kolle, h.

Thor W. Kolle, Jr. Chairman

Abram Claude, Jr.

President

September 30, 1977

1977 Highlights



Vice President Walter F. Mondale, pictured (left to right) with Clyde Cook, Chairman, Committee for Purchase from the Blind and Other Severely Handicapped; Thor W. Kolle, Chairman of the Board, National Industries for the Blind; and William Thompson, President of The General Council of Workshops for the Blind.

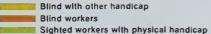


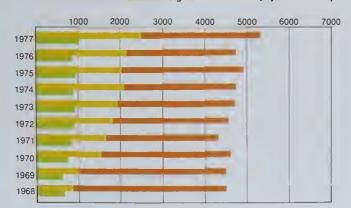






Employment of Blind and Handicapped





NIB and the General Council of Workshops for the Blind, including staff, management and board members of the NIB associated industries, met in St. Petersburg, Florida, and Washington, D.C.

The Washington, D.C., meeting was addressed by Vice President Walter F. Mondale; The Honorable Joel Solomon, Administrator of General Services Administration; and Clyde Cook, Chairman, Committee for Purchase from the Blind and Other Severely Handicapped.

Two orientation training seminars for 40 new management staff members of NIB associated industries were conducted by the NIB staff at Royal Maid, Inc., NIB demonstration workshop, Hazlehurst, Mississippi.

Average hourly wages to blind workers, total wages to blind employees, total sales, and number of blind people employed all reached the highest peak of any time in NIB history.

NIB formed the two new administrative divisions of Legislative Affairs and Public Relations.

ITT completed the first pilot industrial placement program for blind workers at the ITT plant in Corinth, Mississippi.

More than 200 representatives of agencies for the blind, including a delegation from Russia, visited and inspected facilities at Royal Maid, Inc., NIB demonstration workshop.

Clockwise from top: Vickie Norris, employed by Southwest Lighthouse for the Blind, Lubbock, Texas, is the 1977 recipient of the Peter J. Salmon Award to the Blind worker of the Year . . . Jack Webber accepts NIB citation for industrial placement of blind workers in ITT . . . Douglas Price, former Executive Director, Mississippi Industries for the Blind, is the recipient of the R.B. Irwin Award for 1977 . . . Ted Workman, past Chairman of the Board of Dallas County Association for the Blind, was named Workshop Board Member of the year.

NIB and Government Cooperate to Serve Blind People



Soldier with blind-made equipment including canteen cover, bayonet scabbard, belt, helmet cover and strap, rifle sling, first aid case and ammunition pocket.













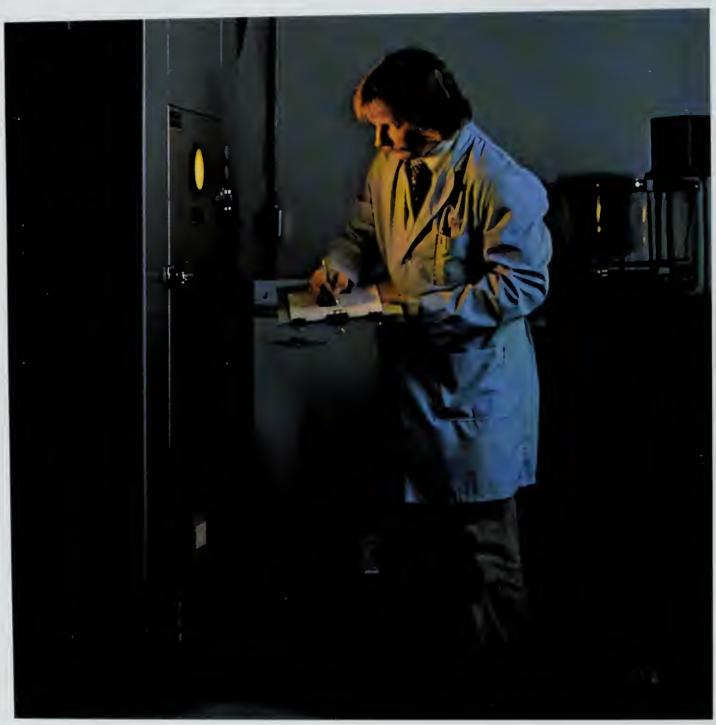
NIB continues to work closely with the Committee for Purchase from the Blind and Other Severely Handicapped. This year the NIB Government Marketing Division added 34 products to the list of products to be purchased from the blind by the Federal Government under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act. The addition of these items created over 200 new jobs for blind people and sales volume of \$5 million. The added sales coupled with healthy increases in the sale of other government products yielded \$59 million in blind-made products sold to the Government during the year, an increase of \$13 million over last year and the highest in NIB history. Included in this is the \$6 million in household and hardware items sold in military commissaries and exchanges throughout the world. The sale of blind-made products in military resale stores is also under the authority of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act.

In conjunction with the sale and distribution of blind-made products, NIB provides numerous services to its associated industries (workshops) and to the government.

Highlighted elsewhere in this report is the NIB Technical Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Equally significant are the contributions of the Industrial Engineering and Manufacturing Engineering Departments of the Government Marketing Division. These professionally staffed departments provide the NIB associated industries with cost data, product research information, efficient manufacturing techniques, component purchasing and quality control. Government Marketing Division staff members are available to NIB associated industries (workshops) on a daily basis. And this year 60 representatives of NIB associated industries attended NIB technical training schools.

Clockwise from top: Stitching pillow covers for military use . . . SKILCRAFT product for sale in military stores . . . SKILCRAFT identifies products by blind craftsmen . . . Production of Army web belts . . . Injection molding machine manufactures plastic cutlery for government use . . . Assembling ballpoint pens.

NIB Technical Services Improve Efficiency



Environmental control ovens for testing government products at National Industries for the Blind Technical Center in St. Louis, Missouri.









Contributing immeasurably to the accomplishments of the NIB Government Marketing Division in assisting the 91 associated agencies is the NIB Technical Center at St. Louis, Missouri. In this modern, well-equipped facility, a competent engineering staff provides support to the other departments of the Government Marketing Division in the identification of new products that can be manufactured by blind workers. Toward that end, the Technical Center this year prepared feasibility studies on 50 products for 36 production industries of NIB.

Both government as the customer and the NIB associated industries as producers are greatly assisted by the activities of the Center in areas of component testing, quality assurance, and product research and development.

Clockwise from top: Engineers check product specifications . . . quality control . . . National Industries for the Blind Technical Center in St. Louis, Missouri . . . Product development.

NIB and Private Industry Provide Employment for Blind Workers



ITT welcomes its first blind employees as part of its industrial placement program.

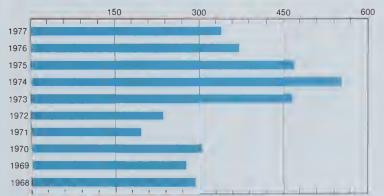








Placement of Blind in Private Industry



General Electric, Boeing Company, ITT, Proctor and Gamble, Western Electric, Eastern Airlines, AMF (Head Division) — these are a few of the national corporations contracting products and services to industries for the blind in the United States. Utilizing modern equipment operated by skilled craftsmen, blind employees are proving that they are capable of turning out quality work at competitive prices.

"Working with Industry" is a major emphasis of National Industries for the Blind. This program provides employment in private industry for the blind while complementing the Affirmative Action efforts of the participating companies.

This year ITT Corporation, which has been subcontracting with industries for the blind since 1975, clearly demonstrated its support of Affirmative Action by working with NIB on a pilot industrial placement program in the ITT plant at Corinth, Mississippi. After several months in a training program, 12 blind persons have become full time employees of ITT. For leadership in employment of blind people, ITT has received the commendation of Vice President Walter F. Mondale and other government leaders. It is the hope of NIB that other companies will also place trained blind employees in their production facilities, especially in those areas where there are no established industries for the blind.

The "enclave" concept (a satellite industry for the blind situated in a private industrial plant) could also help industry meet future Affirmative Action requirements and aid NIB in finding new opportunities for the employment of blind people. One associated industry of NIB, Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind, has initiated an enclave test program with Crest Chemical Company of Florida.

Clockwise from top: Manufacturing for the Boeing Company... Blind woman sews racket cover for AMF (Head Division)... Western Electric subcontract work... Subcontracted industrial drilling operation.

Rehabilitation Places Blind People in Jobs They Do Best



Evaluation Center at Royal Maid, National Industries for the Blind demonstration workshop, Hazlehurst, Mississippi.











Industries for the blind have a dual role. First, they provide the work. But more importantly, they seek to place blind workers in jobs they perform most proficiently.

NIB Rehabilitation Service Division, in cooperation with Royal Maid, Inc., NIB demonstration workshop, has taken major steps toward developing a vocational evaluation system designed specifically for blind people. Instructions for building and operating the mechanical units of the system and evaluating the information they record are now available to NIB associated agencies at no cost. Some industries have purchased the equipment and have it operable in their own plants. Others have viewed it and are considering installation at an early date.

The NIB Rehabilitation Division continues extensive activities in other fields as well. Working with various state agencies for the blind, the Division this year conducted four seminars for personnel working in industries for the blind. Included were three in vocational evaluation and one in orientation to blindness. The Division also responded to numerous requests from communities interested in starting new specialized industries for the blind and assisted existing industries toward association with NIB.

The staff of the NIB Rehabilitation Division has played an important role in orientation of board members of individual industries. This service enables board members to serve more effectively and to better utilize the facilities and services of NIB.

Clockwise from top: Blind girl being evaluated for vocational skills necessary to operate a drill press... NIB associated industry provides mobility training... An aerial view of Royal Maid, NIB demonstration workshop, Hazlehurst, Mississippi... The blind worker profits from evaluation and training... Multifunctional Work Task Unit to test worker's coordination, material control and memory.

NIB Associated Industries



ALABAMA

Industries for the Blind P.O. Drawer 17 Talladega, AL 35160

ARIZONA

Arizona Industries for the Blind 3013 West Lincoln Street Phoenix, AZ 85009

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind 69th and Murray Streets Little Rock, AR 72209

CALIFORNIA

California Industries for the Blind, Inc. 1255 Park Avenue Emeryville, CA 94608

California Industries for the Blind, Inc. 840 Santee Street

Los Angeles, CA 90014

California Industries for the Blind, Inc. 1344 F Street

San Diego, CA 92101

San Francisco Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. **BLINDCRAFT**

1097 Howard Street San Francisco, CA 94103

COLORADO

Rehabilitation Center for the Visually Impaired 100 West Seventh Avenue Denver, CO 80204

CONNECTICUT

Board of Education and Services for the Blind 170 Ridge Road Wethersfield, CT 06109

Delaware Bureau for the Visually Impaired 305 West Eighth Street Wilmington, DE 19801

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind 1421 P Street, N.W Washington, DC 20005

FLORIDA

Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind 1106 West Platt Street Tampa, FL 33606

Lions Industries for the Blind, Inc. 7810 South Dixie West Palm Beach, FL 33405

GEORGIA

Georgia Factory for the Blind 59 Ormond Street, S.E. Atlanta, GA 30315

Georgia Factory for the Blind Faceville Highway P.O. Box 218 Bainbridge, GA 31717 Georgia Factory for the Blind **Emlet Drive** P.O. Box 98

HAWAII

Griffin, GA 30224

Ho'opono Center for the Blind 1901 Bachelot Street Honolulu, HI 96817

ILLINOIS

The Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind 1850 West Roosevelt Road Chicago, IL 60608

Kansas Industries for the Blind 925 Sunshine Road Kansas City, KS 66115 Kansas Industries for the Blind 425 MacVicar Street Topeka, KS 66606

Kansas Foundation for the Blind, Inc. 801 East Lincoln Street P.O. Box 2355 Wichita, KS 67201

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Industries for the Blind 1900 Brownsboro Road Louisville, KY 40206

LOUISIANA

The Lighthouse for the Blind 123 State Street New Orleans, LA 70118 Shreveport Association for the Blind 1750 Claiborne Avenue P.O. Box 3821 Shreveport, LA 71103

The Maine Institution for the Blind 189 Park Avenue Portland, ME 04102

MARYLAND

Baltimore Training and Work Center/ Blind Industries and Services of Maryland 2901 Strickland Street Baltimore, MD 21223

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland Western Maryland Division 322 Paca Street Cumberland, MD 21502

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland Eastern Shore Division Northwood Industrial Park P.O. Box 2133 Salisbury, MD 21801

MASSACHUSETTS Workshop for the Blind

72 Second Street Cambridge, MA 02141

MINNESOTA

Duluth Lighthouse for the Blind 7 North 27th Avenue West Duluth, MN 55806

The Minneapolis Society for the Blind, Inc. 1936 Lyndale Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55403 St. Paul Society for the Blind 216 South Wabasha Street

St. Paul, MN 55107

MISSISSIPPI Royal Maid, Inc. Hansen Road P.O. Drawer 30 Hazlehurst, MS 39083 Mississippi Industries for the Blind 2501 North West Street P.O. Drawer 4417 Jackson, MS 39216

MISSOURI

Kansas City Association for the Blind 1844 Broadway Kansas City, MO 64108 The Lighthouse for the Blind 2315-21 Locust Street St. Louis, MO 63103

New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired 232 Frelinghuysen Avenue Newark, NJ 07114

New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired 209 Highland Avenue Westmont, NJ 08108

New Mexico Industries for the Blind 2200 Yale Boulevard, S.E. Albuquerque, NM 87106

NEW YORK

Albany, NY 12206 Blind Work Association, Inc. 55 Washington Street Binghamton, NY 13901

IHB Industries/The Industrial Home for the Blind 1000 Atlantic Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11238

IHB Industries/The Industrial Home for the Blind 520 Gates Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11216 IHB Industries/The Industrial Home for the Blind Building 40 Suffolk Developmental Center South Road

P.O. Box 1003 Melville, NY 11746

Blind Association of Western New York 1170 Main Street Buffalo, NY 14209

Lighthouse Industries/The New York Association for the Blind 36-20 Northern Boulevard Long Island City, NY 11101 The Jewish Guild for the Blind 111 Eighth Avenue New York, NY 10011

The Jewish Guild for the Blind 15 West 65th Street New York, NY 10023

Central Association for the Blind, Inc. 301 Court Street Utica, NY 13502

NORTH CAROLINA Lions Club Industries for the Blind

of Western North Carolina, Inc. 639 Biltmore Avenue Asheville, NC 28803 Lions Club Industries for the Blind, Inc. 1810 East Main Street P.O. Box 11215 Durham, NC 27703 Industries of the Blind, Inc. 920 West Lee Street P.O. Box 3544

Greensboro, NC 27402 Lions Industries for the Blind, Inc. 500 East Lenoir Avenue

P.O. Box 454 Kinston, NC 28501

Raleigh Lions Clinic for the Blind, Inc. 315 Hubert Street Raleigh, NC 27603

Industries for the Blind 701 North Main Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101

OHIO

Cincinnati Association for the Blind 2045 Gilbert Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45202

Clovernook Home and School for the Blind 7000 Hamilton Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45231

The Cleveland Society for the Blind 2275 East 55th Street Cleveland, OH 44103

The Vision Center of Central Ohio 2470 Cleveland Avenue Columbus, OH 43211

Youngstown Society for the Blind and Disabled 2246 Glenwood Avenue Youngstown, OH 44511

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma League for the Blind 501 North Douglas Avenue Oklahoma City, OK 73106

OREGON

Oregon Industries for the Blind 535 S.E. Twelfth Street Portland, OR 97214

PENNSYLVANIA

Lehigh County Branch/ Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, Inc. 614 North Thirteenth Street Allentown, PA 18102

Delaware County Branch/ Pennsylvania Association for the Blind 100-106 West 15th Street Chester, PA 19013

Chester County Association for the Blind, Inc. 71 South First Avenue Coatesville, PA 19320

Center for the Blind 36th Street and Lancaster Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19104

Pittsburgh Blind Association 300 South Craig Street Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Washington-Greene County Branch Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, Inc. 254 North Main Street Washington, PA 15301

PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico Industries for the Blind Corp. Box 8627 Santurce, PR 00910

TENNESSEE

A.P. Mills Industries for the Blind 346 St. Paul Street P.O. Box 2175 — DeSoto Station Memphis, TN 38101 Volunteer Blind Industries, Inc. 758 West First South Street Morristown, TN 37814 Mason Brandon Industries for the Blind 4110 Charlotte Avenue P.O. Box 90227 Nashville, TN 37209

Southwest Lighthouse for the Blind 409 South Cleveland P.O. Box 31000 Amarillo, TX 79102

Travis Association for the Blind 2831 Manchaca Road P.O. Box 3297 Austin, TX 78764

South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind 1907 Leopard Street P.O. Box 9697 Corpus Christi, TX 78408 Dallas County Association for the Blind 3940 Capitol Avenue P.O. Box 64420

Dallas, TX 75206

El Paso County Association for the Blind 100 Dunne Avenue El Paso, TX 79905

Tarrant County Association for the Blind 912 West Broadway Fort Worth, TX 76104

Lighthouse for the Blind of Houston 3530 West Dallas P.O. Box 13435 Houston, TX 77019

Southwest Lighthouse for the Blind 607 Main Street P.O. Box 10102 Lubbock, TX 79408

West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. 30 North Chadbourne San Angelo, TX 76903 San Antonio Association for the Blind

2305 Roosevelt Avenue P.O. Box 10230 San Antonio, TX 78210

Waco Lighthouse for the Blind 700 South 15th Street Waco, TX 76706

Beacon Lighthouse for the Blind 300 Seventh Street Wichita Falls, TX 76301

UTAH

Utah Services for the Visually Handicapped 1595 West Fifth South Salt Lake City, UT 84104

VERMONT

Vermont Workshop for the Blind c/o Vermont Allied Services 103 Main Street Waterbury, VT 05676

VIRGINIA Virginia Industries for the Blind 1102 Monticello Road P.O. Box 259

Charlottesville, VA 22902 Virginia Industries for the Blind 1535 High Street P.O. Box 27563 Richmond, VA 23261

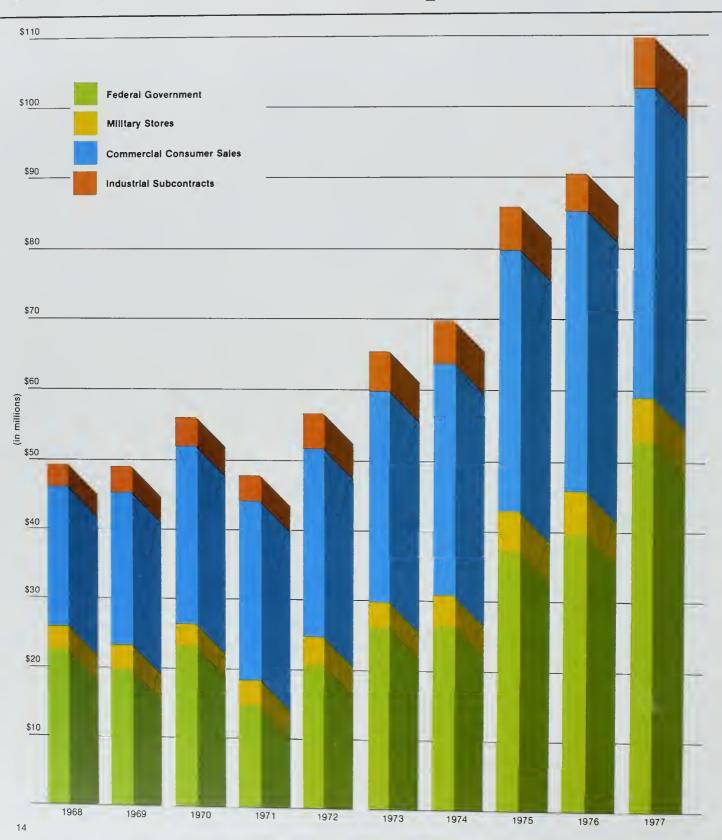
WASHINGTON

The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. 2501 South Plum Street P.O. Box C-14119 Seattle, WA 98114

WISCONSIN

Industries for the Blind 3220 West Vliet Street Milwaukee, WI 53208 Wisconsin Workshop for the Blind 5316 West State Street Milwaukee, WI 53208

NIB Ten-Year Sales Summary



Average Hourly Wage to the Blind



Annual Wages Pald to Blind Workers* (in millions)



ANNUAL SALES

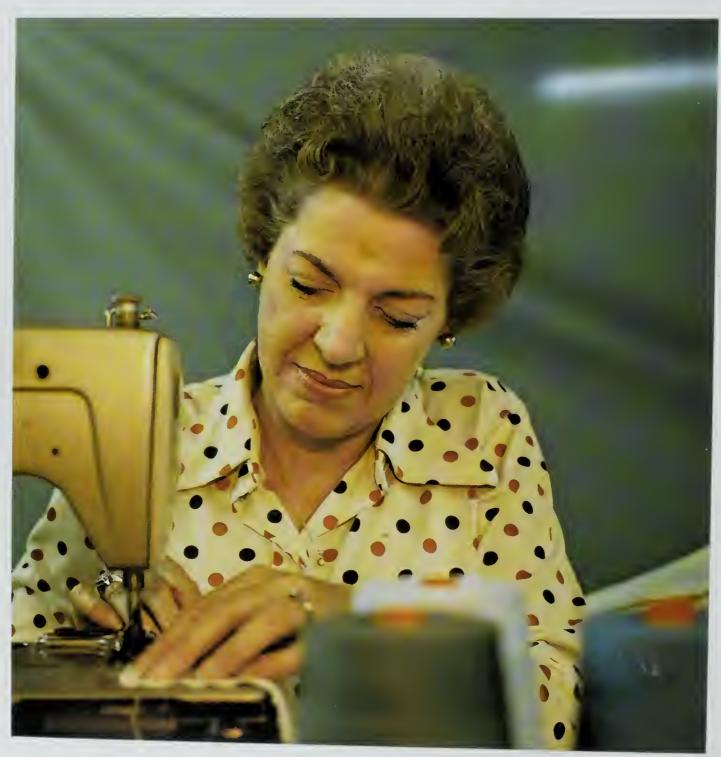
Year	Federal Government	Military Stores	Commercial Consumer Products	Industrial Subcontracts	Totals
1968	22,367,449	3,285,307	20,290,538	3,393,991	49,337,285
1969	19,581,515	3,466,217	22,151,048	3,928,564	49,127,344
1970	23,006,781	3,142,546	25,546,770	4,272,109	55,968,206
1971	14,788,361	3,561,127	25,737,511	3,765,230	47,852,229
1972	20,687,430	3,845,658	27,030,718	4,961,086	56,524,892
1973	25,916,297	3,949,638	29,882,693	5,526,909	65,275,537
1974	26,138,786	4,390,882	32,915,259	6,480,057	69,924,984
1975	37,139,818	5,505,701	37,288,527	5,868,406	85,802,452
1976	39,541,136	6,062,532	39,584,206	5,160,057	90,347,931
1977	52,717,058	5,993,983	43,478,861	7,312,828	109,502,730

1977 saw new records set by NIB associated industries for the number of blind people employed, average hourly wage to blind employees, total wages to blind employees, commercial sales and sales to the Federal Government.

Included in total employment were 1,014 sighted workers with physical handicaps other than blindness who earned \$3,961,196 during 1977 with fringe benefits of \$771,912 for a total of \$4,733,108.

Included in the sale of commercial consumer products was morethan \$9.1 million to procurement activities of many state governments. Enactment of legislation by the individual states to extend priorities to industries for the blind within their boundaries is rapidly spreading and providing many additional jobs for blind citizens of those states. NIB offers assistance to the states and the NIB associated agencies in securing passage of State Use Laws.

The figures in this report are as of the close of the Federal Government fiscal year, September 30, 1977.



Blind employee sews government mailing bags.

NIB Board of Directors

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Dallas, TX

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Ray Miller Manager of Shops Industries for the Blind Talladega, AL

Ed I. Mills, Jr. General Manager San Antonio Association for the Blind San Antonio, TX

Jansen Noyes, Jr.* Chairman of the Board Hornblower, Weeks, Noyes & Trask, Inc. New York, NY

Ernest A. Ochel Wichita, KS

Offices

Principal Office: 1455 Broad Street Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Government Marketing Division Office: 1511 K Street, N. W.

1511 K Street, N. W. Washington, DC 20005

Legislative Affairs Office: 1511 K Street, N. W. — Room 327 Washington, DC 20005

Technical Center: 10679 Midwest Industrial Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63132

Rehabilitation Services Division Office: 2020 Jericho Turnpike New Hyde Park, NY 11040

NIB ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

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Vice President—Legislative Affairs John W. Hanger

Vice President—Government Marketing James C. MacFarland

Vice President—Controller George J. Mertz

Director—Product and Sales Services
Daniel J. Boucher

Director—Public Relations R. T. Millard

Director—Rehabilitation Services
Harold Richterman

Auditors

Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Company Newark, NJ National Industries for the Blind 1455 Broad Street Bloomfield, NJ 07003